



Swanage Urban District Council.

**Medical Officer's Report,
1920.**

SWANAGE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1920.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I beg to submit my thirty-first Annual Report on the Health and vital statistics of the Swanage Urban District for the year 1920.

Area.	The area of the District is 2659 acres, with 31 acres of foreshore.
Population 6,719.	The population has been estimated at 6,719; last census return in 1911 the population was 4,750.
Birth-rate 19.6	We had 132 births during the year, the largest number we have ever had, this gives a birth-rate of 19.6 per thousand. There were 72 males and 60 females born, of these 10 were illegitimate.
Death-rate 9.6	There were 64 deaths giving a death-rate of 9.6 per thousand.
Zymotic Death-rate .04	There was one death from Diptheria giving a Zymotic death-rate of .04 per thousand.
Infantile Mortality 45.4	There were 6 deaths of children under one year of age giving a death-rate of 45.4 per thousand registered births. The average death-rate of England and Wales is 89 per thousand.

Infectious Diseases	Notified—20.			
	Puerpual Fever	...	...	4
	Diptheria	...	...	2
	Opthalmia Neonatorum		...	1
	Erysipilus	...	...	2
	Enciphalitis Lethargia		...	1
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	6
	Tuberculosis	...	...	4

Measles was removed from the list of Notifications last year, as it was found to be useless in stopping an epidemic.

Council Schools. These are clean and well kept. Were not closed during year for any epidemic.

Average age at death. 60. The average age at death was very high during the year, there were fourteen deaths over 80 years of age, four being over 90.

Water Supply. This was derived from the spring at Ulwell, supplemented in the Autumn with water from the Military Well at Studland. This was satisfactory and the shortage of water was not so apparent as in the previous year. A scheme has been started to get a further supply from Corfe Castle. The quantity of water and Bacteriological tests are most satisfactory, and it is anticipated that the supply will be available in the autumn of 1921.

Isolation Hospital. This is a brick and stone building at Herston containing 14 beds for Scarlet Fever only. Six cases were treated there during the year. During the Autumn it was thoroughly cleansed and painted, the trees in the grounds being cut down so as to admit more air and light.

Drainage and Scavenging. The Town is drained by gravitation into tidal water outside the Bay; Gully traps are cleaned out and disinfected frequently and there have been no complaints of Smells arising therefrom. House refuse removed three times a week.

Bakehouses and Dairies. These as a rule are kept clean. In one or two bakehouses Whitewashing was ordered to be carried out. There are nine registered Cow-keepers in the District and three purveyors of milk, all premises clean.

Slaughter Houses. There are two registered slaughter houses kept in a fair condition.

Sanitary	Number of Houses inspected	...	...	258
Work done.	Instructions issued for Sanitary amendment			87
	Abatement of Nuisances	...	...	75
	Houses and premises cleaned	...	...	17
	Houses disinfected	...	...	15
	Defective House drains remedied	...	...	51
	W.C. provided in Old houses	...	...	2
	W.C. repaired	...	...	11
	Removal of Manure and Refuse	...	...	28

Housing Twenty-two houses have been commenced at Herston under the Council Scheme and are making progress. Fourteen houses have been built by private enterprise. It is hoped by the end of next year there will be a sufficiency for immediate demand, and we can turn our attention to some of the older cottages of which about 15 are below a reasonable standard; an Inspector came during the year to see some of these cottages but made no report on their condition.

Factory Act. There are 42 Workshops in the Town in a sanitary condition. Six girls and three boys were examined and granted certificates as to fitness for work contemplated.

Child Welfare. A Child's Welfare has been started in the Town. Twenty-four mothers were supplied with a pint of milk daily during the year.

Food Inspection. There was no meat or Food condemned during the year. Samples were taken by the County Council Inspector of the following, and found genuine:—

Arrowroot	...	1	Jam	...	...	1
Bread	...	2	Licorice Powder			1
Cream of Tartar		1	Marmalade	...		1
Flour	...	1	Milk	...	...	2
Picalilli	...	1				

General Remarks. We had a very satisfactory year from the sanitary point of view. There was no Water or Milk borne disease or diarrhoea amongst children during the Autumn. There is still a demand for Working class houses, some of the older cottages being overcrowded. We have deferred condemning any houses till the housing scheme has been completed. Eight dwelling houses which were defective have been rendered fit.

(Signed)

A McCausland,

Medical Officer of Health.

